

Approved 12/11/08

Exeter Fire District

(November 13, 2008)

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lacouture called the November meeting of the Exeter Fire District to order at 7:44pm. Present were commissioners Lacouture, Walker, Gallagher, Rooney, Aker and Nievera. Ms. Caito, district treasurer, was also present. There were 5 members of the public in attendance.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Caito reports a beginning balance of \$105,565.01 as of July 09, 2008. Activities within the accounts bring the current balance, as of Sept. 09, 2008 to \$425,854.78. Mr. Nievera has reviewed the accounts and compared them to the bank statements and is satisfied with their accuracy. Mr. Nievera moved (Mr. Gallagher second) acceptance of the report of the treasurer. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lacouture suggested the creation of a separate account to take advantage of the FDIC insurance regulations. After a short discussion Mr. Aker moved (Mr. Nievera second) directing the treasurer to open a

money market account, at a convenient location, at her earliest opportunity. Ms. Caito will research local institutions looking for the most favorable interest rate.

Previous Month's Minutes

Mr. Aker moved (Mr. Rooney second) acceptance of the minutes, as corrected, of the August meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nievera will circulate the approved minutes and file them with the Secretary of State's office at his earliest convenience. Mr. Nievera will re-type the minutes of the September 11th meeting and circulate them early next week. They will be acted upon at the December meeting.

Communications

All operational mail has been given to the treasurer for her action. Mr. Nievera presented Mr. Lacouture with a completed copy of a W-9 form required by the state. He also reported having received the approved Facilities Use Form granting us the use of the EWG High School auditorium for our 2009 annual meeting. Mr. Nievera then read a letter from the Exeter Town Council concerning the finances of the Exeter Rescue Corps. Mr. Lacouture tabled action on this letter until later in the meeting.

Old Business

Mr. Aker and Mr. Preston (VFIS) met recently to discuss the possibility of combining the organizations liability coverage. The main sticking point has been one of the “insurable interest” of the fire district. Mr. Preston feels that there is a way around this problem. He recommended the formation of a committee, comprised of members from all the affected organizations, to discuss the options. Mr. Nievera has been asked to write the four organizations involved asking them to appoint a representative to this committee. He agreed to do so at his earliest opportunity.

Mr. Gallagher stated that he has been told that Mr. Nievera’s minutes contain too much detail. And that he may be in violation of Robert’s Rules of Order. Discussion of this item will be tabled until next month.

Mr. Nievera gave a report on the delinquency status to date. He noted that the current tax sale list (2006 tax year) contains 35 names. Ms. McMahon is in discussion with several taxpayers on the list attempting to establish payment plans.

Ms. Caito presented and explained the annual compilation report from Peter D’Orsi. She noted that we had finished the year with a positive net asset position. “We’re out of the hole”, says Ms. Caito.

Mr. Lacouture stated that with the economic problems at hand and the financial condition of many families, he hopes that the organizations would take economic conditions into effect when formulating their FY 09/10 budgets. The general sense of the meeting

was that 5% or 5.5% was not going to do. The smaller the increase, the better. This subject will be on the agenda for the December meeting.

Due to Mr. Wilbur's absence, action on Mr. Johnson's letter will be postponed until next month.

Mr. Lacouture reported that a conversation with Chief's Franklin and Kettelle indicated that the ISO requirements may be changing. This is due to a tragic fire that claimed several firefighters' lives. The ISO committee will discuss this development and report back to the body.

New Business

Mr. Davis (EVFD #1) stated that they had recently finished a very successful membership drive. He also reported his frustration with the State of RI over grant filings.

Mr. Lacouture (EVFC #2) reported that runs were down slightly. He reviewed two notable fires from the recent past, one in a barn full of hay and the other that produced several dead puppies.

Mr. Gallagher (Exeter Rescue) reported that the building addition is complete and it came in at \$180,000. "Otherwise, noting unusual to report."

Mr. Nievera (EEDC) reported that the dispatch center had hired a new dispatcher, Peter Beauchenes, from Coventry. He also reported that the HSC monitor had failed and the state has refused to repair it. Discussions are ongoing concerning the re-location of the dispatch

center to Station #2. Chief Kettelle is attempting to affect a meeting among the senior leadership of the organizations to address the issue of interdepartmental communications. Chief Kettelle has also set several goals for the coming months, including personnel training and operational (mutual aid) improvements.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Exeter Fire District Board of Commissioners will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at the Exeter Public Library located at 773 Ten Rod Rd. in Exeter. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Rooney moved (Mr. Gallagher second) adjournment at 9:15pm. The motion carried unanimously.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Nievera, Clerk
Exeter Fire District**